GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:806
ANSWERED ON:22.10.2008
GROWTH OF INDIGENOUS SHIPPING INDUSTRY
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Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the annual growth rate of shipping industry in the country in comparison to the world shipping industry during the last three years, country-wise; and

(b) the concrete steps taken by the Government to increase the growth of the indigenous shipping industry?

Answer

MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS(SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) The annual growth rate of Indian shipping tonnage in comparison to world shipping tonnage during the last three years is given in Annexure-I.

(b) The Government has been taking various steps from time to time for the growth of Indian tonnage. These include:

(i) The Government of India has formulated the National Maritime Development Programme (NMDP) under which 111 projects for Shipping & Inland Water Transport Sector have been identified for implementation by the year 2015 at cost of Rs.44,535 crores. The activities covered under the Programme include tonnage acquisition, maritime training, coastal shipping, aids to navigation, shipbuilding and building up of IWT infrastructure. Under the NMDP, The Shipping Corporation of India plans to acquire 76 vessels at a total approximate cost of Rs.15,000 crores.

(ii) Tonnage Tax has been introduced from 2004-05 whereby in the matter of taxation a level playing field has been given to Indian Shipping Industry vis-Ã -vis international shipping industry.

(iii) The acquisition of vessels has been brought under Open General Licence. The Shipowners are free to decide on type of ships to be acquired and their area of operation etc.

(iv) 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is permitted in Shipping Sector.

(v) The formalities of registration of newly acquired vessels have been simplified.

(vi) The maritime training, examination and certification system has been streamlined to meet the market demands.